

HJR 52 -- BIRD, FISH, GAME, WILDLIFE, OR FORESTRY RESOURCES

SPONSOR: Ruzicka

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources by a vote of 16 to 1.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority for voter approval of an initiative petition relating to harvesting bird, fish, game, wildlife, or forestry resources. An initiative petition that establishes, amends, or repeals sales taxes for conservation purposes will still require only a simple majority approval.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 or More than \$7,000,000 in FY 2013, \$0 in FY 2014, and \$0 in FY 2015. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the state needs to be proactive in opposing efforts to restrict citizens' rights to legally harvest fish, wildlife, and forestry resources in the state. The bill will protect against petition efforts to restrict these rights and the tourism revenues produced by the unique and effective wildlife management system in Missouri. Hunting and fishing is a multibillion dollar industry in the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ruzicka; Missouri Forest Products Association; Department of Conservation; and Mark Zubrick, American Fisheries Society.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.